



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR



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TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR


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TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Mark J. Saladino  
Treasurer and Tax Collector 

SUBJECT: **NEW ONLINE PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT OPTION**

I am pleased to inform your Board of a new online property tax payment option that will be made available effective July 18, 2005. This method of payment will be offered through the Department's website and is known as "V-check." The V-check payment option will be offered as a **free service** to our property taxpayers.

The V-check option, in effect, is an electronic template of a check. Certain (limited) data fields must be completed by the payor and are transmitted through the Internet. The information is received by our secure server, printed as a check, and processed through the Department's Remittance Processing Center. The payor will receive a confirmation of the payment transaction by e-mail.

This new service is being implemented in response to numerous requests from your constituents for additional and more convenient payment options. Until now, property taxes could only be paid by cash, check, credit card (over the telephone), or Electronic Funds Transfer – no property tax payment options were made available through the Internet.

Although the County's e-commerce committee is working to establish Internet payment options, including credit card payments, implementation of a countywide solution is at least 6 to 12 months away. Therefore, I instructed my staff to work with County Counsel, Internal Services Department, and the Chief Information

Officer to expedite this V-check payment option while ensuring that all practical safeguards, protections, and legal disclosures are in place. Successful testing of the system is complete and we will now make it available to the public.

We plan to notify taxpayers of this new payment option through informational inserts included with the annual property tax bills, and through the Department's website. I will also coordinate a news conference when the annual tax bills are mailed in October 2005. I hope you will join me in this event.

Initially, the V-check payment option will be available to pay property taxes on the current secured roll during the fiscal year of billing. Assuming this system is well received by the public, I plan to expand the V-check option to other tax payment applications, such as Unsecured Property Taxes, Defaulted Taxes, etc. I will inform your Board if, and when, we expand the availability of V-check.

Barring any unforeseen problems we will also extend the V-check payment option as a service to other County departments. This will allow other departments to contract with us for V-check payment processing services in conjunction with their own Internet applications. I will instruct my representative on the E-Commerce Committee to suggest V-check as an enhancement to the credit card payment options currently under consideration.

I am very pleased to offer this additional payment option to Los Angeles County taxpayers. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at your convenience.

c: Chief Administrative Officer